

REDEEMER

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Fall 2000

Redeemer University
College-new year
starts with new name

A History of Faith-the story
of Redeemer's charter

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Photo: Daniel V. Photography

As we look to the future there will be new challenges in serving more students, enhancing our faculty and academic programs and expanding our facilities

Recalling the blessing of the Lord

BY JUSTIN D. COOPER

Who could have imagined, some twenty-five years ago, when establishing a Christian college in Ontario was only an idea, that today we would have seen two amendments to Redeemer's original provincial charter of 1980, enabling us to have degree-granting powers and a name in accordance with the original vision of the founding Ontario Christian College Association.

From a feasibility study for a Christian liberal arts college to the formation of an association and board in 1976, the Lord has continued to prosper what has become, with its latest charter amendment in June of 2000, Redeemer University College, Ontario's only privately funded, Christian university. This change in name, together with the degree-granting powers given to Redeemer in June of 1998, are the culmination of efforts which began in 1977, when the provincial Ministry of Colleges and Universities was first approached about the possibility of obtaining a charter for a Christian liberal arts college.

After having been told at that time by government officials that *Christian* and *university* were mutually exclusive categories, we find it nothing short of a spiritual breakthrough that the record has been set straight by these two charter amendments, enabling us to grant BA and BSc degrees and changing our name

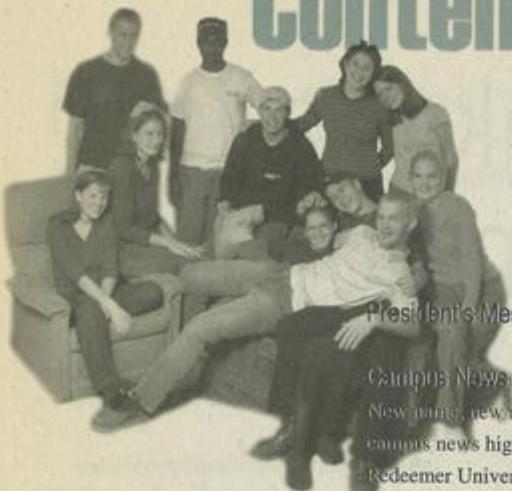
to Redeemer University College. This name not only reflects our status as an undergraduate university (hence the term "university college"), but also, and more importantly, proclaims that an institution which recognizes Jesus Christ as Lord in its teaching and scholarship has a place in university education in Ontario!

We praise God for these tremendous breakthroughs which, together with our exploding increase in enrolment, has launched us into a new stage of development, as is already evident in the completion of our new student residence. Redeemer University College has truly "come of age" as an institution of Christian higher education, fulfilling and even exceeding the hopes of its founders in status and in size.

As we look to the future there will be new challenges in serving more students, enhancing our faculty and academic programs and expanding our facilities. And it is our prayer that the Lord will enable us to remain faithful to our founding vision as a university-level liberal arts and science institution whose teaching and scholarship are Scripturally-directed and acknowledge Christ's Lordship over all of life and culture, which are hallmarks of our Reformed Christian basis.

Only as we continue to do so will the Lord truly bless and prosper Redeemer University College so it can be a witness for His glory in the area of university education. I

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A Friend Remembered Peter Turkstra 1909-2000



Earlier this year, the Lord took home Peter Turkstra, a longtime friend of Redeemer University College and the Redeemer Foundation. His financial acumen, and his generosity, were instrumental in getting Redeemer off the ground. He also provided leadership in the effort to raise funds for the construction of the Ancaster campus and later for the College's LIFT campaign. He was a member

of the Redeemer Foundation and was made an honorary member of its board of directors in recognition of his efforts.

Mr. Turkstra, founder of Turkstra Lumber, was active in many causes beyond his business. His son, Carl, highlighted some aspects of his remarkable life in an April 26 column of the *Globe and Mail*. Redeemer is grateful for Peter's many contributions towards Christian education in Ontario at all levels, and as a community we join his wife and family in celebrating his life.

What's Inside

Editors

Tim Wolpert '87, Petra Zantingh

Design

Petra Zantingh

Layout

Marg Oorebeek

Contributors

Christa Hesselink, Mark Mantel '88,
Francis Manias-Jackson '93

Editorial Advisory Board

Arlene Heidbüller '88,
Jack Klooster '97, Mark Van Beveren,

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Editorial communications can be sent to
The Editor, *Images*
Redeemer University College
777 Garner Road East,
Ancaster, Ontario L9K 1J4

Tel: (905) 648-2131 X 4292
Fax: (905) 648-2134

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images@redeemer.on.ca
www.redeemer.on.ca/alumni/images



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Return to: Redeemer University College
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Cover: From 1982-2000, the look of the campus, students and name have all changed. Clockwise from top: Beach Blvd. campus; Evelyn Hopster 1982; receiving the charter at Queen's Park (left to right), Sam Curetz, Bert Bakker, Robert Welch, Dick Kranendonk, Rev. DeBoister, Justin Cooper, George Ashe; Garner Road campus; third year student Michael Drost from Las Vegas, NV; receiving Redeemer's new charter, June 2000, (from left to right); Dr. Justin Cooper, Mr. Brad Clark, Dr. Elaine Botha. Digital image: Petra Zantingh

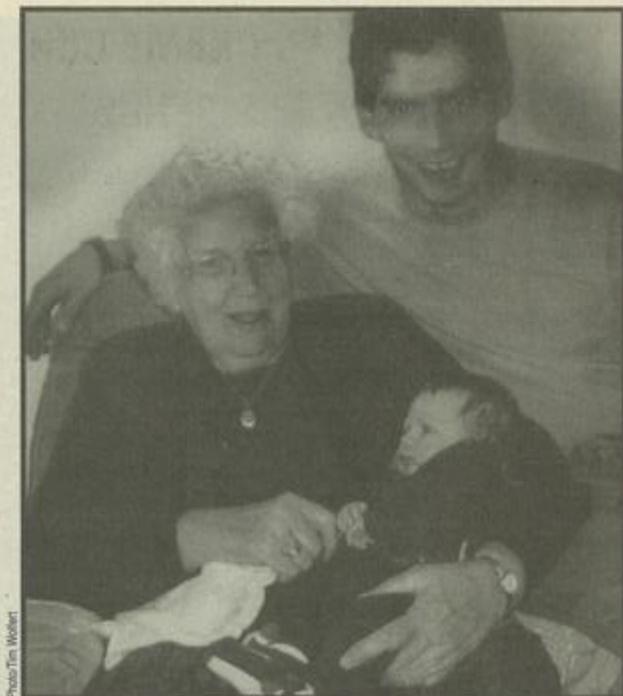


Photo Tim Wolfert

Tim Wolfert with his grandmother, Jane Bosch and daughter, Johanna Wolfert.

I couldn't help but think of my grandmother. Oma Bosch has seen three grandchildren attend Redeemer, and she was a faithful participant in the annual Milk and Honey Festival for years until her knees wouldn't allow her to go anymore.

officially known as Redeemer University College; in September, we welcomed the largest ever student body; and in October, the new residence was dedicated.

When a number of alumni were talking about all these events at Homecoming in September (you can read about that event in this issue as well), someone remarked that perhaps the biggest change at Redeemer in the ten years since he had graduated has been the broad institutional support and increased level of recognition that Redeemer has experienced. That can be seen on a number of levels.

Politically, every level of government recognizes Redeemer University College as, in the words of Ancaster Mayor Robert Wade, "a jewel in the Hamilton-Wentworth region." The business community demonstrates its support by hiring co-op students and graduates, making substantial contributions, and providing feedback through the Business Advisory Council. And the broader church community is becoming more interested in the education offered and the resources available here. With more than 30 different denominations represented in Redeemer's student body, that support is growing

It Takes a Community

BY TIM WOLFERT '87

beyond just the Reformed community.

This newfound support from political, corporate and church leaders is, of course, wonderful. It complements those whose dedication to the cause of Christian higher education in Ontario has been long-standing and very generous. As an institution, we have a need to recognize these people and their support in a public way, even if they would prefer to remain anonymous. Some, but certainly not all, of those people are discussed in this issue as well.

But as the alumnus and I reflected on this new reality (while looking at a newly landscaped centre garden—donated by Shade Master Landscaping of Hamilton), I couldn't help but think of my grandmother. Oma Bosch has seen three grandchildren attend Redeemer, and she was a faithful participant in the annual Milk and Honey Festival for years until her knees wouldn't allow her to go anymore. She loves this place, and never misses a chance to talk about Redeemer to family and friends. She often tells me that she would like to do more, but she's on a fixed income and there are just so many needs. So Oma does what she does best—she prays.

It is at times daunting to realize what is needed to operate Redeemer University College—high-quality Christian university education does not come cheap. We are frequently humbled and amazed when we see how the Lord uses so many to provide what is needed.

Old friend or new, public or private, individual or institutional, we are grateful for all the support, financial and otherwise, that we receive. ▀

New Residence Opens

"On time, on budget, and completely paid for."

It was with that great news that Bill van Staalduin, Vice President (Advancement) and Chair of the Building Committee, officially opened the new residence at a dedication ceremony on October 14.

The 78-bed residence was on a tight building schedule after breaking ground in January, and the wet spring and summer threatened to delay the occupancy date. But thanks to the cooperation of the sub-trades, and a last minute push by staff and Resident Assistants to clean the units, everything was ready when students arrived in September. The residence was also built within the \$2.4 million budget that was approved by the Board of Governors. And Redeemer's incredible support community donated or pledged every dollar that was needed to pay for the residence—the building has been completed debt-free, with the last amounts coming in on the day of the dedication!

One of the highlights of the dedication ceremony was a song that was sung as a prayer for the Lord's presence in the "homes" these student apartments have become. *Come Lord Jesus, Be My Guest*, written by Peter Tigchelaar and performed

with him by members of the Redeemer Concert Choir, is a beautiful invitation for Christ to live in us, no matter where we live.

Redeemer also received greetings and congratulations from a number of local dignitaries, including His Worship Robert Wade, the Mayor of Ancaster who noted the appreciation citizens of Ancaster have for the students who make Redeemer and the town their home during their years of study.

In his remarks, Dr. Cooper expressed gratitude for the many participants in the building project and a humble amazement at the Lord's faithfulness in the generous response by supporters who had covered the entire cost of the building. "This entire project has been symbolic of the exciting times that we are enjoying as a Christian academic community. God has blessed us beyond what we could ask or imagine and we are both grateful and somewhat awed by His goodness."

Once the official ceremony was over, many of the guests took advantage of the opportunity to tour the new residence with the first year students who live there acting as guides. ▀

HELP US NAME OUR NEW RESIDENCE!

What's in a name? Well, plenty, especially when giving names to campus buildings. And so we are asking for our support community's help.

Redeemer University College would like to give a name to the new residence and to the groups of existing townhouse residences. We invite you to send in your suggestions. A representative committee will be appointed to review all suggestions and make a recommendation to the Board of Governors.

There are a number of guidelines that should be used when considering which names to be used:

- Name(s) chosen should allow for additions so that as the campus expands there is harmony in the naming convention used. Examples may include: significant figures from church history, geographic terms or places, and historic Christian individuals with significant contributions in academics, public service or Christian ministry;
- Names of living persons should not be considered. Memorials should be considered carefully in the light of the naming convention chosen;
- The naming of the townhouse residences should utilize entire blocks, complexes or rows as the structure to be named rather than individual units.

Send submissions for one or more residence names with supporting rationale to:

Residence Naming Committee

c/o Communications & Media

Relations Department

Redeemer University College

777 Garner Rd. E. Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4

comrel@redeemer.on.ca

Submissions should be received by January 1, 2001.



Photo: Hamilton Spectator

Standing in front of the new residence holding the corner stone are from left to right: William van Staalduin, Vice President (Advancement); Dr. Justin Cooper, President; Robert Wade, Mayor of Ancaster and Graham Cubitt, President, Student Senate.

Opening Convocation Marks Beginning of New Academic Year

The academic year officially began on September 5 with Opening Convocation. Combining centuries-old traditions of the academy and the giddy excitement of a brand new school year, Convocation is a unique, interesting event, made even more special this year because we start the new year with a new name. Mr. Brad Clark, MPP for Stoney Creek and co-sponsor of the provincial bill that amended our charter to allow for the name change, was present and gave his greetings. Mr. Clark noted the perseverance that Redeemer has shown through its history, and encouraged the university college to continue to be true to its mission.

Convocation begins with a procession, led by faculty in full academic regalia.

Although they are now used only at special ceremonies, the colourful, symbolic garb of professors does recall the historic roots of the modern university, when clothing was the mark of the man (and, eventually, woman). In a more modern, and uniquely Redeemer tradition, all first-year students follow the faculty into the Auditorium and are given seats of honour and a special welcome from Dr. Cooper and the Redeemer community.

President Cooper gave the Convocation address, entitled "Walking in the Light," based on 1 John 1:7, as chosen by the Student Life Department. Dr. Cooper pointed out the incredible impact that this challenge has on our work as a university and in our personal and academic lives. |



Logo designed by Chris Cuthill

Students given a dirty, wet welcome

On September 6, 2000 the Class of 2004 took to the field to participate in the 13th annual F.R.O.G. Olympics. The First-year Redeemer Orientation Groups (F.R.O.G.) had a blast with their leaders (returning student volunteers), and these first year students got a taste of the memory-making moments they will experience at Redeemer University College.

F.R.O.G. Olympics is just one of many activities to orient new students to university life at Redeemer. The Student Life Department organizes many activities to welcome students to their new home, acquaint them with Redeemer life, foster relationship building, and assist

them in their academics. "For many students, this is not only a new school, it is a new community way of life," says Christa Hesselink, Activities and Orientation Coordinator.

"We want the adjustment period to be as smooth as possible. That means not only giving students the information they need, but also by making them feel that they are part of this community."

Other activities organized by Student Life as part of Orientation included socials, off-campus trips, and service opportunities, such as working on a Habitat for Humanity project. |



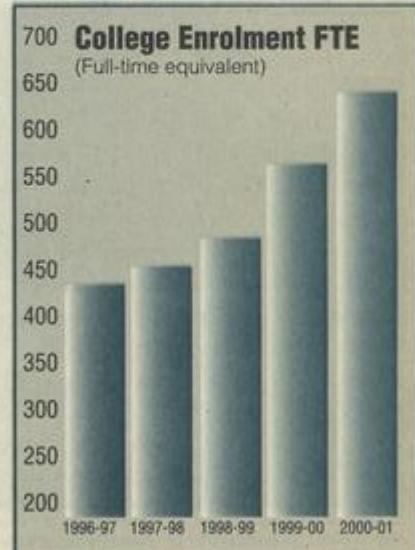
Photo/Dave Raakman

Record Enrolment

Redeemer University College continues to set record enrolment numbers.

According to statistics released by the Admissions and Student Services Office, Redeemer's enrolment increased to 675 students for the fall term, which is a full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment of 640 students, 64 more than last fall—an 11% increase. There are 228 new students at Redeemer this year, including 193 who are in their first year of studies. The other new students include upper-classmen who have transferred to Redeemer, and those who are in the Consecutive Education program.

The enrolment growth can also be attributed to the number of students who return year to year to continue their studies at Redeemer. According to Ms Marian Ryks-Szelekowsky, Senior Director of Admissions and Student Services, being able to offer the BA and B.Sc. degrees has made a big difference: "Prior to 1998, a number of second- and third-year students would transfer to public university to complete their degree. Now, they are completing their undergraduate education at Redeemer." Demographic trends and the increased awareness of Redeemer University College in Ontario and other areas point to continued growth for the next few years. |



New and Bigger Board Elected

The residence dedication ceremony provided a wonderful backdrop for the Redeemer University College Annual Membership Meeting on October 14. Members present first enjoyed lunch, and then carried on the business of the institution. As a membership-based institution, all governance issues are approved by Redeemer's members—those who support the mission of the University College and who have paid the membership fee. We are grateful for the thousands of people who as members take such an active role in providing Christ-centred university education.

The Board was authorized to add three new seats, with the understanding that one of those will be filled by someone from the broader Reformed Christian community, and the other two by people from the

broader Evangelical Christian community. The Board of Governors and the Senate were also authorized to conclude an articulation agreement with Tyndale College in Toronto. Although the details of this venture need to be completed, Redeemer's By-Laws require membership approval before the university college enters into any formal agreement with another institution.

Four people retired from service on the Board, each having completed their second, three-year term. Mr. Jack Jagt, Mr. Simon Kuyvenhoven, Rev. Harold Minor, and Dr. John Vander Kooy were all thanked for their dedication over the last six years. Their tenure saw significant change at Redeemer, including two changes to the provincial charter which governs our operation.

In the elections that followed, Beth Ann

Wiersma '94, Martin Mudde, John Van Dorp, Larry Lutgendorff, Sylvia Smeenk, Aaron Schat '96, Jack Van Meggelen, Gerrit Gerrits, Gerry Brown, Gerry Hofstra, Lloyd Hack, and Allan James were elected for a three-year term on the Board of Governors, and Arthur Heidebrecht and Bruce Hellinga were elected to the Senate.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Board met to select an Executive Committee. For the following year, Mr. Martin Mudde will again act as Chair of the Board, with Mr. Frank Vreugdenhil as Vice Chair, Mr. Albert De Jong as Secretary, and Rev. Thomas Meyer as Treasurer. Members-at-Large Wybe Bylsma, Charlie Fluit, and Ralph Norg will also serve on the Executive. The full Board convenes for the first time in November for a retreat and a meeting. ■

350 campers participate in Summer R.A.Y.S. 2000

Redeemer Athletics for Youth in Summer, Redeemer's own sport camp, celebrated its own record enrolment, with 350 campers participating this summer.

Children ages 5 through 14 participated in a variety of sports (soccer, basketball, baseball etc), and games, including Boors' Ultimate Dodgeball, (created by former instructor Mike Vanderboor '99), Sardines, and Capture the Chicken/Bass/Banana (depending on the mascot of the summer). A Lil' R.A.Y.S. program (5/6 year olds), was also offered, with 33 children enroled over the two weeks.

Summer R.A.Y.S. 2000 provided five Redeemer physical education students full-time instructor positions over the summer. Several enthusiastic high school volunteers also helped to contribute to a great camp.

Summer R.A.Y.S. was originally devised by Allan Brown, Director of Athletics, and Betty Steenbeek '89, Assistant Director of Athletics. Its



Participants ham it up for the camera at the summer r.a.y.s. program this summer at Redeemer University College.

mandate is to provide an environment for athletic participation and cooperation, to instill attitudes of "fair play," and most of all to have fun. Since its inception in 1992,

Redeemer's Summer RAYS has become a popular event in the greater Ancaster community, with many local parents taking advantage of the programs. ■

A History of Faith



It's taken over 20 years, but Redeemer now has the charter its founders first imagined

BY TIM WOLFERT

This September, President Emeritus Rev. Henry De Bolster participated, as he has every year since Redeemer began, in the Opening Convocation exercises. This year's ceremony, he admits, was just a little bit special—it marks the beginning of the first year of Redeemer University College, and in many ways marks the completion of another stage of Redeemer's history.

In this issue of *Images*, we are pleased to tell one small part of the story of Redeemer, from its inception as an idea through, as Rev. De Bolster says, "its birth, infancy, and adolescence." On one hand, it is a story of the perseverance and sacrifice of many dedicated individuals. It can also be told as a civics lesson—the sometimes painfully slow process of affecting change through the democratic and legislative process. But more importantly, Rev. De Bolster argues, it is primarily a story of faith. Faith that is first of all found in God's promises to His people, and the faith that His people place in Him to accomplish His work, often in ways that we can not foresee. As Dr. Cooper pointed out in his remarks at the residence dedication ceremony, the Lord has blessed Redeemer University College beyond what we could have asked for or imagined.

This is not the conclusive, definitive history of Redeemer University College. For that, readers can look forward to the publication of Rev. De Bolster's memoirs, tentatively scheduled for release in 2001. *Stepping Forward in Faith*, the working title of his book, will provide a much more detailed description of the origins

From top to bottom: Bell Cairn School on "The Beach"—Redeemer's first campus from 1982-86. Constructing the Ancaster campus, 1985. Francis Rd. townhouses which served as dorms from 82-86. Newest campus residence, open September 2000

and early days of Redeemer. But this is a good time to be reminded of the incredible political obstacles that needed to be overcome in the creation of Redeemer. As the university





Rev. Henry De Bolster and Mr. Nick Van Duyvendyk (Chairman of the Board) at the 1985 groundbreaking ceremony for the Ancaster campus. It was so wet and rainy, the "sod-turning" took place indoors at the neighbouring fairgrounds.

college looks confidently to the future, safe in the hands of a faithful Lord, it is good to remember from it all began.

The idea of a Christian undergraduate university in Ontario was a natural extension of those Christian elementary and secondary schools that had been organized by the Reformed community in Ontario since the 1950s. This community was made up largely of post-World War II Dutch immigrants who had few educational opportunities themselves. These social and historical circumstances, combined with a theology that both emphasizes the intrinsic value of education, and encourages the creation of distinctly Christian institutions, caused many to make incredible sacrifices for the cause of Christian education.

It wasn't until the early 1970's however, that a serious examination was made of starting a distinctly Christian undergraduate university in Ontario. "It started," says Rev. De Bolster, "with Andy Langendoen, a Christian businessman in St. Catharines. He asked why we were sending all these Canadian students to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. I talked it over with Rev. Jacob Kuntz and Rev. Raymond Sikkema, two other CRC ministers who were also in St. Catharines at that time and we agreed to look into it." But how do you even begin to start a university? The pastors began by meeting with Christian business leaders across Ontario, looking for advice and support. "The response we received was almost unanimously positive," remarks Rev. De Bolster. "Even though we had few details, these business people told us to continue; to go on faith."

In 1975, a group of 12-18 who supported the idea contacted Dr. Robert Vandervennen of the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto and asked him to do a feasibility study on creating a Christian college in Ontario. Dr. Vandervennen talked with Christian high school students, Ministry of Education officials, university representatives and others in preparing his report. He concluded that starting a Christian university was possible, but it would be difficult. He recommended a "junior college" model, a place where students would take first and second year university courses before transferring to another institution to graduate.

Encouraged with the results of the feasibility study, the group worked to formalize plans. In November 1976, the Ontario Christian College Association (OCCA) was formed. The

Faculty, staff and students move the library into the Beach Blvd. campus, 1982.

OCCA appointed a Board with a mandate to start a Christian liberal arts and sciences college in Ontario. The first person hired by the OCCA was Dr. Theo Plantinga as a part-time Director of College Development. Dr. Plantinga spent a great deal of time garnering support for the idea of a Christian university in Ontario. "Our sister institutions, Calvin and Dordt College in Iowa, were very supportive and prepared to help," recalls Rev. De Bolster. "But the provincial government was not prepared to grant us what we needed—an operating charter."

Government policy regarding post-secondary schools at that time was guided by the Robart's Policy. After the last great expansion in Ontario's university system in the late 1960's, Education Minister John Robarts recommended that no more secular degree-granting institutions be opened in the province (see the sidebar article for more on the role of the province in the creation of universities).

However, the OCCA continued to press the government for a charter. In 1980, Dr. Plantinga left to teach at Calvin College, and Justin Cooper, then a graduate student at the University of Toronto was appointed Executive Director. Dick Kranendonk also began working for the OCCA, as Director of Development.

The OCCA was tenacious. "At one point," says Rev. De Bolster, "we were referred to by a Ministry official as those people 'who don't take no for an answer.'"

Finally, in the spring of 1980, there was a breakthrough. Mr. Robert Welch, MPP for St. Catharines and the Deputy Premier of Ontario, agreed to work with the OCCA to pass charter legislation. A private member's bill, Pr48, *An Act to Incorporate Redeemer Reformed Christian*

College, sponsored by Mr. George Ashe, became law on December 12, 1980.

The key provision of the charter allowed Redeemer to offer "degree ... programs based on Biblical and theological studies, which programs and courses may include studies in the general arts, humanities, and sciences, both natural and social." The "may include" clause, according to Rev. De Bolster, was the one which opened the door to a Christian perspective on all aspects of academia, setting Redeemer apart from the more narrowly focused programs of the Bible colleges.

Bill Pr48 was always seen as just a first step. There



were two articles in the Act with which Redeemer was not completely satisfied. First of all, the charter gave Redeemer the authority to grant the degrees of Bachelor of Christian Studies and Bachelor of Christian Education, but not the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor Science degree. As a result, Redeemer was identified as an institution with "limited degree-granting authority." "We told the Ministry that this was unacceptable," says Rev. De Bolster. "And we told them that we would be back to have that terminology changed. Because that was really all that it was—a difference in nomenclature."

The degree designation certainly caused some to wonder what type of education was being offered at Redeemer, and the uncertainty kept some students from attending. Evidence of Redeemer's academic quality was provided by the Association of Universities and Colleges' (AUCC) decision to accept Redeemer as a provisional member in 1985 and as a full member in 1987. The Ontario university community also understood the degree designation and for the most part accepted it as equivalent to a BA or a B.Sc.. Since the first graduating class in 1986, Redeemer graduates, with their BCS degree, have been accepted into public university graduate programs in Ontario and around the world.

Throughout the 1980s and 90s, Redeemer lobbied successive provincial governments to have the charter amended so that the degree designation could be changed. There was even a letter-writing campaign by Redeemer's support community to try to pressure the NDP government of the time, but that initiative, like all the others, did not seem to have an impact.

But Rev. De Bolster, Dr. Cooper (who became president in 1994) and Dr. Kranendonk continued to work, often behind the scenes, meeting with Ministry officials, politicians and university representatives to try to garner enough support to make the necessary amendments. The goal was to ensure that all potential roadblocks to amending the charter would be dealt with and removed before approaching Queen's Park with a bill.

In 1992, the Ontario Progressive Conservative party published its education platform called "Blueprint for Learning." Among other things, the document proposed that there be room in Ontario for private universities if certain conditions were met. The Conservatives were elected to power in 1994, and two years later created the Smith Commission, which Dr. Cooper addressed, to examine the future of post-secondary education in Ontario. The Commission's final report said that there should be room for private



universities in Ontario, but specifically mentioned that "church-related institutions" should still be attached to, or affiliated with, a public university.

Perhaps surprisingly, Ontario's universities, through the Council of Ontario Universities, did not oppose the Commission's findings. As long as academic standards were maintained, and private universities did not receive any funding, the Council was prepared to accept them. Even the Ministry of Colleges and Universities altered its position, and was ready to accept private universities in Ontario.

These changes in policy, even with the Smith Commission's recommended limits on religious schools, were dramatic, and as Dr. Cooper points out, miraculous: "We don't really know what caused these groups to begin to look favourably on private universities in Ontario. It is a case where the hand of the Lord was leading us."

Even with this new political environment, it took until February, 1998 for Redeemer to prepare legislation that would amend the college's degree-granting authority. Mr. Toni Skarica, MPP for Hamilton-Wentworth, agreed to sponsor a private member's bill, and Mr. Cam Jackson, the minister responsible for the Hamilton area, supported the bill in Cabinet. The legislation was unopposed by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Council of Ontario Universities, and received all-party support at the Standing Committee. Bill Pr17, *An Act Respecting Redeemer Reformed Christian College*, was passed in June, 1998, giving Redeemer the authority to grant Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees.

The second provision of Bill Pr48 with which Redeemer was not satisfied was the official institutional name, Redeemer Reformed Christian College. In Ontario, the terms college and university represent two very different types of education, and Redeemer was often mistaken as being either a community college or a Bible college. Mr. Brad Clark, MPP from Stoney Creek, sponsored a bill to amend Redeemer's charter once again, this time to change to official institutional name to Redeemer University College, giving

public recognition to the education that has always been offered—undergraduate liberal arts and sciences education from a distinctly Christian perspective. Bill Pr19 passed through the legislative process unopposed and received royal assent of June 25, 2000.

With its degree-granting authority and name change, Redeemer University College has, in many ways, "come of age." Those who have guided Redeemer since its inception have seen their vision and dreams realized—an undergraduate degree-granting university offering courses



and programs, and promoting research and scholarship, from a distinctly Christian perspective. "We had no firm timetable when we started," says Rev. De Bolster. "The goal was to be a junior college for a while, and then, eventually, move towards being a four-year, degree-granting institution. But God accelerated our timeline and we grew faster than any of us thought possible."

Working within the political and legislative process can be a long, and at times daunting task, and there were many times when the outlook seemed bleak. And there will continue to be challenges for Redeemer as it proclaims Christ's Lordship in all areas of post-secondary education. But Rev. De Bolster is convinced that whatever the future brings, we can be secure in the promise that God is in control: "If we remain faithful to the word of God, and hold fast to His promises, there is nothing that He cannot do—just look at what He has done so far!"

Why does Redeemer need a provincial charter?

Post-secondary education and degrees are regulated by our provincial government to ensure that such institutions meet appropriate standards of quality. As a result, colleges and universities require a provincial charter to operate and grant degrees, which is given by having a private bill passed by the Legislature. Most closely regulated are the powers to grant university degrees and to use the name "university." It is for this reason that Redeemer University College received a provincial charter in 1980 and required an official act of the Ontario Legislature to amend this charter, first in June of 1998 to grant undergraduate university degrees, and then in June of 2000 to include "university" in its official name. Having legislation such as the original charter and the charter amendments passed by the Ontario Legislative Assembly is a process involving five main steps over a six-month period:

I drafting the bill: the purpose and wording of the bill must be worked out with the Ministry of College & Universities and the legal office of the Legislature

I gaining support: this is the key step of gaining support of all relevant stakeholders, including the Minister, university presidents, and the three provincial political parties

I tabling the bill: usually with the sponsorship of the local MPP (member of provincial parliament), the charter or amendment is introduced as a private bill (not a government-sponsored bill)

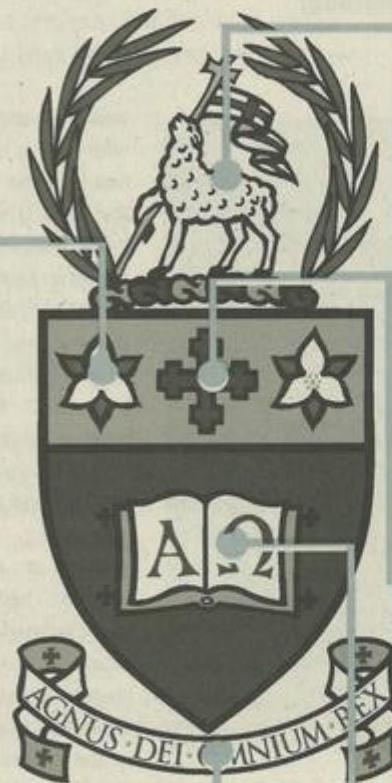
I committee hearing: all bills are referred to a standing committee for review, which takes the form of a public hearing where questions are asked by committee members; to move forward for final approval a private bill must receive both Ministry and all-party consent

I final reading & royal assent: with committee approval the private bill is given approval by the Legislative Assembly (called second and third reading) and then royal assent by the Lieutenant Governor; once the bill has been given royal assent, it becomes law

We are thankful to the Lord for these major breakthroughs which have allowed Redeemer to be recognized in law for what it is in fact, a Christian undergraduate university.

What does the Academic Crest mean?

The coat of arms of Redeemer University College was initially designed in 1981 and registered by the Canadian Heraldic Authority in 1989. The coat of arms, shown below, is rich with symbolism and reflects the mission and purpose of Redeemer University College.



The lamb

The theme "Lamb of God, King over All", refers to the all-encompassing dominion of the Redeemer. It is most visible in the crest which contains the victorious Paschal Lamb framed in palm branches, symbolic of the Lordship of the risen Christ over all creation.

The cross

The four Latin crosses set foot to foot making a Greek cross, represents the world-wide missionary spirit of Christianity, a spirit that has also come to expression in the Reformation and the Reformed Christian tradition from which the university college has developed.

The trilliums

Above the open book is a cross-crosslet flanked by two trilliums. The trilliums, whose three-fold flowers remind us of the Trinity, are an emblem of the province of Ontario in which the university college has been founded.

The Latin motto

Agnus Dei Omnium Rex—meaning "Lamb of God, King over All"—refers to the all-encompassing dominion of the Redeemer, whose name the university college bears.

The open book

Inscribed with the Greek letters alpha and omega, symbolizes that the education offered by the university college is directed by Scripture and its central message of the redeeming work of Christ.

From Kenya to Canada

Changes in everything from climate to culture affect overseas student at Redeemer



Photo: Peter Zelitch

Adjusting to university life is a challenge for many young people. Those who choose to stay in residence also need to adapt to living conditions that are often quite different from conditions back home. But for Redeemer's international students, choosing to study in Canada means acclimatizing (sometimes literally) to a whole new world. Their presence, however, contributes to an increasingly diverse community, one that is enriched by the unique personalities that shape, and are shaped by, students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Shamalla, a psychology and business major, has experienced many new things since arriving from Nairobi, Kenya three years ago, not the least of which is the

weather. "It's cold here," Shamalla says, with only a hint of a smile. But she does find that the snow is beautiful, now that she is used to it. "During my first year, I was walking to morning prayer when it started to snow. I was so disorientated that I couldn't walk—there was too much snow flying around in front of my eyes and I had never experienced anything like that." Shamalla has even gotten used to the long Canadian winter, even if it gets too dark by 4:00 in the afternoon.

One of the big differences between Kenya and Ontario, according to Shamalla, is the role that the church has in the Christian's life. "Back home, the church is the centre of my life. On Sundays, my family spends almost the whole day there with other Christians, worshiping and later eating together. And throughout the week, it is where my friends and I get together for social activities. In Canada, church seems to be the place you go on Sundays for a while." Shamalla doesn't question the commitment of North American Christians; we just have different ways of living it out. She notes that Kenyan culture, particularly among Christians, is more communally oriented than that with which North American Christians are familiar. "Back home, my church community, especially

my friends, hold me accountable in my faith. Here, one's faith is almost exclusively a private, individual issue."

At a different level, Shamalla finds that same sense of community at Redeemer, and she has taken an active role in furthering it. As a columnist for the student newspaper, *The Crown*, Shamalla often uses examples of her life back home to demonstrate the joy and blessing of belonging to a Christian community. And as a Resident Assistant for a dorm of 6 first-year students, Shamalla has the opportunity to create and strengthen the bonds of Christian community right where she lives.

Why does someone go halfway around the world to study? Shamalla points to a number of instances that led her to believe that the decision to come to Redeemer was God-driven. While on her way to do some

research about schools at the American Embassy in Nairobi, she had to pass the Canadian Embassy. Almost on a whim, she decided to stop in to see if there were any Christian colleges listed there. She found some information on Redeemer and never did make it to the US Embassy. The application process for her, compared to some of her Kenyan friends who went to study elsewhere, was "a dream." Seeing God's hand in all this was confirmed for her when she ended up with the last student visa issued to a Kenyan student that year.

As a columnist for the student newspaper, *The Crown*, Shamalla often uses examples of her life back home to demonstrate the joy and blessing of belonging to a Christian community.

Eventually, Shamalla would like to work for a mission organization in Africa, either in counselling or administration. But that will have to wait until after she has completed her degree and returned to Kenya—something she has done only once since she arrived in Canada. "This is my home for now," she says. By bringing a little bit of Kenya to Redeemer, Shamalla has influenced her community perhaps as much as it has impacted her.

With this issue of *Images*, we launch a new section called Stewardship Matters.

Many supporters of Redeemer are looking for a variety of ways to financially support Christian education. Redeemer University College works with a number of financial planners, lawyers, insurance agents and other professionals to counsel those who wish to provide Redeemer with gifts that best make use of their resources. In the next few issues of *Images*, these counsellors will present different strategies for those who are looking for unique ways to support the University College. If you are interested in learning more about any of the options presented on this page, please contact Ben Stegeman of the Stewardship Office toll-free at 877-779-0913, or via e-mail bstegem@redeemer.on.ca

Planned Giving

Small but Strategic Decisions for Advancing the Kingdom

BY ALBERT J. BAKKER Q.C.

The historic right to decide what happens to your possessions on your death is a special privilege that is often ignored or minimized "I don't care what happens when I die;" "I will leave that for my children to sort out;" "I won't be there to worry about it;" "I don't have very much."

Often, the only way that we as advisors can get people to think about all the things that they can do—and the responsibility they have with, their estate is to frighten them with the consequences of not deciding.

Decisions made about one's estate after death are broadly referred to as Planned Giving, and can entail a wide range of options—wills, life insurance, and annuities are just some of the vehicles that people can consider.

As Christians involved in financial planning, we try to have our clients imagine what their estate could do in expanding the role of Christ in the lives of others. A simple decision, such as leaving a bequest for a scholarship, could have a major impact on the life of a student training for a life of Christian leadership.

Albert J. Bakker Q.C. practices law in St. Catharines with the firm of Bakker, Atamanuk Taylor and Wenglowski

Demutualization – a possible Gift?

BY HENRY EYGENRAAM

Over the past several years a number of insurance companies, including Canada Life, Mutual life, Sun Life and Manu Life have determined that they should convert their structure from a "mutual" company to a "stock" company. Essentially the process involves the company creating a new company, which will issue shares in exchange for the assets of the original insurance company. Each policy owner will be allocated a number of shares based on a formula, which considers the size of the policies the client has and the length of his or her relationship with the company.

The policy owners were given the option to receive shares in the new company or have the shares sold to receive cash once the demutualization transition was completed. If they chose to receive cash it was generally treated as dividend income and taxed accordingly. If the shares were kept there was no immediate tax impact. The owner may elect to sell them at a later date and they will be subject to capital gains taxation at the time of disposition.

For most people this has been a bit of "found money." Some have chosen to include it in their planned giving to ministries they support because of the favourable tax treatment such a gift receives—if the actual shares are given to a charity as a donation, the capital gains tax on those shares may be reduced by 50%. Check with your financial planner about what demutualization can do for you and the ministries you support.

Henry Eygenraam is Executive Director of Christian Stewardship Services of Canada

Photo Tim Waller



Tony Steenbeck lines up his putt while teammates Al Bakker, Chris Vriend and Jeremy Cook look on.

Alumni Dominant in Golf Tournament

Close to 40 alumni and friends participated in the 5th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament this past September 26 at the Knollwood Golf Course in Ancaster. Once again following a Best Ball format, the team of Aaron '96 and Jon Schat '00 and Mark '89 and Dave Mantel '99 claimed the lowest score. Al Schenk '93 (Longest Drive) and John Vellinga '92 (Closest to the Pin) made it an alumni sweep of the trophies, reclaiming bragging rights from last year's champion staff and faculty team.

Photo Tim Waller



Part of the gallery that gathered on the 18th green to welcome the golfers as they finished. It was not always the safest place to sit.



Photo Tim Waller

The Alumni Association Annual Meeting was held on September 16 as part of Homecoming. The membership voted to make a number of changes to the Alumni Association, and they also elected Rose Bouwers to the Board, replacing Mark Mantel who retired after 6 years of service, including two as Board President. The new Alumni Board met in October to continue to work on activities that benefit alumni, students and the university college community as a whole. The Alumni Board welcomes input from alumni, and looks forward to serving other former students.

Back Row (left to right) Al Bakker '90, Arlene Heidburt '88, Matt Heinbuch '01, Rick Schenk '93, Doreen Vanderheide '92, Rose Bouwers '92, Front Row: Mike Bax '95, Jack Klooster '97, Darryl Beck '98, Stacia Vong-Hogetep '95 Absent: Aaron Schat '96

Homecoming 2000

The Class of 1990 was the guest of honour this year at Homecoming. Held each year on the third Saturday in September, Homecoming is an invitation for all alumni to return to campus for a time of fellowship and reminiscing with classmates, faculty and staff.

Activities at Homecoming 2000 included a reading by Dr. Loney from his forthcoming book of short stories, a barbecue dinner, and a tour of the new residence. It brought back plenty of memories of 1986, their own first year, which was the year that the Ancaster campus opened. Many alumni were impressed not only with the new facility, but the fact that it was done on time. Sounding very much like "old-timers," alumni regaled the first-year students who live in the new residence with tales of how bad they had it when they moved into the not-quite-completed townhouse residences in 1986. Although they were impressed with the layout, furnishings and quality of construction found in the new dorms, many alumni also spoke fondly of the experiences they had on a brand new campus.

The evening concluded with a concert by Marvin Oldejans '87 and his band, which includes fellow alumnus Carl Feddema on bass. Marvin played selections from his new CD *Stone's Throw*, a collection of original songs that highlight his folksy-blues style. For information on ordering a copy of *Stone's Throw*, please contact Marvin at (905) 627-1583.

Alumni Career Network

Last year saw the launch of the Alumni Career Network, an informal mentoring program set up by Career and Placement Coordinator John Krueger and the Alumni Board. The Network is a listing of Redeemer alumni, by occupation, who make them-

selves available to Redeemer students for job or career advice. There is also a section in the booklet for students who are considering graduate school.

This program was very well received last year, and we hope to revise and update it again this year. All alumni are encouraged to participate in this program. Those who wish to be listed in the ACN should contact the Alumni and Community Relations Office at Redeemer University College. |

Class of 01 Begins to Say Good-bye

On September 28, Redeemer graduands (those in their last year of study) met with Dr. Cooper and members of the Alumni Board for a Farewell Kick-Off Social. Over coffee and dessert, these members of the Class of 2001 were encouraged to persevere during their final year at Redeemer, and to take the time to realize the significance of their impending accomplishment. But mostly, they were reminded to enjoy this very special time of their life.

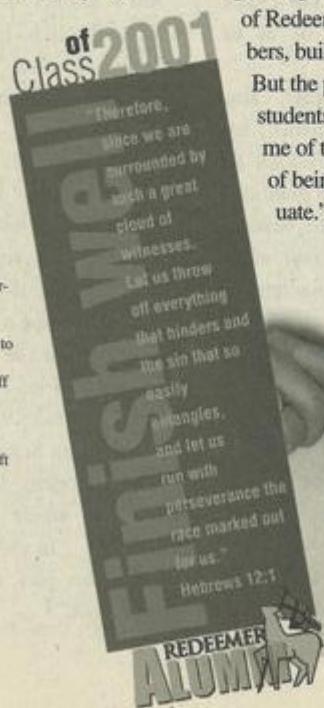
One of the goals of the Alumni Board is to take more of an active role in the life of current students. As those who have "gone before" them, alumni have a unique perspective for those about to leave school for other ventures. To this end, the Board has committed to being prayer partners for each of these soon-to-be alumni throughout the year. Each Board member received some basic information about each of the graduands on their list (age, family situation, major, etc.,) and a copy of the Student Directory so that they could put a face to those for whom they are praying.

According to Alumni Board Secretary Daryl Beck, who was at the Farewell Kick-Off, the prayer cards help the Board focus on students. "It's easy to get caught up with the business side enrolment numbers, fundraising, etc., cards really put the perspective. It reminds me of the challenges student about to grad-

get caught up with of Redeemer—bers, buildings, But the prayer students in per-me of the excite-of being a uate." |

Left: The Alumni Board's encouragement to the Class of 2001, drawn from Hebrews 12:1, was printed on a bookmark and given to each graduand as a reminder.

Right: Sherri Elisen '01 shows off her Redeemer Alumni golf shirt, one of the prizes that was given away at the Farewell Kick-Off Social. Other prizes included a gift certificate to Chapters Bookstore and a diploma frame.



Registration Form

Redeemer Alumni co-ed volleyball tournament

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2001 at Redeemer University College. Teams and players must be registered by Jan. 10.

Submit form below and cheque to:

Alumni Office, c/o Redeemer University College,
777 Garner Road E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4.

Registering as: Team Individual

Individuals register now and pay when team is formed (add your name below).

For team registrations please complete the following:

Team Name: _____

Captain: _____

Players (and graduating year): _____

Alumni Volleyball Turnney

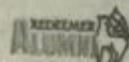
The Alumni Association is hosting the 3rd annual co-ed volleyball tournament on Sat. Jan. 13, 2001. Alumni are invited to put together a team (three women on court at all times, no more than three former varsity players per team) and submit their entry by Jan. 10 to the Alumni Office. There is an entry fee of \$50/team to help cover the cost of referees and prizes. The Tournament format will depend on the number of teams entered,

but we hope to have an Alumni All-Star

Team take on the current varsity team at the end of the day.

To register your team, please complete and return the form above. If you would like some more information

please contact the
Alumni Office. |





Jim and Joan Berry (seated) with their children; back row, son-in-law Geoff Kalsbeek, Katherine, Justin, Angela, Sarah. Front row: Jim, Joan and Mike

For Redeemer's Pioneer Students—those who started when the college first opened its doors in 1982—the decision to study at a brand new institution was a step of faith. They came to a school that had no track history, no academic standing, a limited course offering, and a future that was entirely unclear. For some of those students, that experience was merely good training for a life that is open to hearing the call of the Lord.

Jim Berry came to Redeemer College in 1982 because he, like many others of that class, felt called to go into ministry. Unlike many others who came that first year, however, Jim had a wife, Joan, 3 young children, and a house in Sarnia that they just couldn't sell. The early 1980s saw mortgage rates skyrocket and housing prices, especially in economically depressed areas like Sarnia, plummet. "I had been accepted to Calvin College for 4 years prior, but we could never sell our house. But when Redeemer was opening, our home church, Sarnia First CRC, told us to go—they would take care of the house. It wasn't until 4 months after we moved to Burlington that the house finally sold, and even then it was at a loss. However, the church took up an offering to make up the difference. The support

born while he was a student at Redeemer—left in 1986 for Grand Rapids, MI. Jim earned his BA from Calvin College and then spent 4 years at Seminary, earning his M.Div., and completing the course work for his Th.M.. After their fifth child, and graduation, Jim accepted a call to Ladner Christian Reformed Church in Delta, BC, where he served for eight years. "Our goal was to spend some time out west, and then return to Ontario," says Berry. "But the Lord kept putting opportunities in front of us to remain in BC."

During his tenure at Ladner, Jim participated in two assessments by Christian Reformed Home Missions to explore the possibility of church planting. After a year of residency with several churches in the greater Vancouver area, Jim and Joan became church planters in September 1999.

Is there any significance to the fact that he has "planted" a college, and is now planting a church? "Not really," Berry says. "Both are just examples of what can happen when you let God work within you. There is a real excitement to walking in faith. It is not a blind step—by His grace, God gives us a clear vision of what is possible. It is up to us to flesh out that

Planting in Faith

Jim Berry 'x86 continues to work on the ground floor

that we received from that congregation was just incredible."

Jim, Joan, and their growing family—child number four was

dream with the talents, and weaknesses, that He gives us. Yet God always leaves blanks in the planning. We have no control over the final equation."

Jim does see quite a few similarities in his church plant work with the situation that he was in at Redeemer. "There was, of course, a wonderful community spirit in '82. But what I remember the most was the energy and passion that staff and students had as they put everything on the line in the midst of great uncertainty. It really was putting our faith in this idea called Redeemer College; we were totally convinced that we were going to do whatever it took to get the job done. It's the same attitude that Joan and I have with starting a new church from scratch—you just do what is needed."

Jim's family has been his biggest support through his varied walk, and according to him, "they have aged and matured much better than I have." Besides their church work, Joan also works with autistic young adults, 2 of whom live with the Berrys. Their oldest daughter Katherine is married, and plans to graduate from UBC this year with an education degree. Angela is preparing for further studies to become a vet, and Sarah will be starting pre-med at McMaster University this January. Sons Justin, in grade 11, and Michael in grade 9, are at Fraser Valley Christian High School in Surrey.

What happens next for the Berrys? "We'll see where the Lord leads us," replies Jim. "In the meantime, if you're ever out this way, don't hesitate to stop by for a visit!"

New Computing Centre Reflects Significance of New Technology



Derek Schuurman in the new Natural Sciences Advanced Computing Centre

Over the last number of years, Redeemer has invested heavily in computer services for students and faculty. The busy-ness of the Computer Lab, the widespread use of e-mail, and professors' use of presentation programs, webpages and other electronic media in their lectures show just how "wired" the campus has become. However, for those who need to do programming or other more involved computer applications, there had been a shortage of resources.

Drawing on his experience in industry and as a graduate student in the field, Derek Schuurman, who also is a part-time instructor in Computer Science, volunteered to design a computer lab specifically to meet the needs of students in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division. Unlike the Computer Lab, which is designed for students who need word processing, spreadsheet, or similar software programs, the Natural Sciences Advanced Computing Centre is specifically configured to meet the advanced computing needs of those in the natural sciences, mathematics, and computer science.

"We have a series of networked workstations, all using the Linux operating system and running off a central server in the Natural Sciences division," says Schuurman, who has been teaching at Redeemer for two years. In the past, the advanced applications were loaded on to

only a few computers, meaning that students needed to use the same computer to access their work. Schuurman thinks that increased access is one of the biggest improvements with the new lab. "It allows students the opportunity to save their work on the server and retrieve it at whatever workstation they happen to be at."

Each of the six workstations has been named after a 16th century church Reformer. Besides tipping a hat to the heritage of the university college, Schuurman says that there is a deeper significance to the names that have been chosen. "The Reformers were at the crossroads of their culture, and they made a positive impact with the new tools, specifically the printing press, that were made available. Computers are having the same type of impact on our culture, and Christians need to be at the forefront of our culture as it is impacted by this technology."

Dr. Wytse van Dijk, Vice President (Academic), himself a user of the lab for his own teaching and research, notes that the new Centre "gives Redeemer students the same computing resources that are found at undergraduate universities throughout Ontario. The scale is smaller, but platform and functionality are similar to that found in other university labs. All of us are grateful that Derek has spent so much of his own time to put this centre together."

Education Professor Goes Back to School

After spending a number of years as a teacher of teachers, Dr. Jim Rooks, Assistant Professor of Education, spent last year back in the classroom as a teaching principal at Immanuel Christian School in Charlottetown, PEI.

Returning to the classroom was something that Dr. Rooks had hoped to do for quite some time. "I think that it is important for teacher-educators to get back in the classroom," he says. "It gives us the chance to implement some of our research, to put our theory into practice. It also allows us to stay in touch with the teachers we are preparing. We should be experiencing the complexity of the classroom so that we remember what teachers, especially new teachers, are going through." Beside his teaching, Dr. Rooks was able to spend some time working with the staff develop-



Photo: Ella Rooks
WHEN IN ROME—Dr. Rooks enjoys a maritime outing

ing strategies for teaching language arts, an area of his expertise.

Dr. Rooks also had the opportunity to speak on behalf of Redeemer at many different functions throughout the Maritimes. "It was good to have a presence in a community that often does not have a lot of contact with Redeemer," he says. "There is such a positive feeling about the university college, especially now that so many students are attending Redeemer." Dr. Rooks

Personal Touch

Stuart Admiral '87 and Christine Buwalda '95 were married on August 19, 2000. Stuart is finishing his Ph. D. in Microclimatology at Trent University while teaching part-time at Durham Christian High School. Christine gives private lessons in voice and piano. Address: 4-238 Parkhill Rd. E., Peterborough, ON, K9H 1R2, (705) 742-0727.

Mark Bakelaar '94 and Anna Bakelaar (Beintema) '94 are pleased to announce the arrival of their firstborn son, Tyler Hayden, on March 4, 2000. Address: 36 Clarence St., Strathroy, ON, N7G 1H3, (519) 245-6791.

Jonathan Bremer '94 and Anita Bremer (Sikma) '93 are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Cassandra Martina on April 23, 2000. Jonathan continues to work for DaHa International Machinery and Anita is enjoying her maternity leave from teaching Grade 1 at Calvin Christian School in Dundas. Address: 36 Kelly St., Waterdown, ON, L0R 2H0, (905) 690-0845, bremer.al@sympatico.ca

Jessica Brooks (Veenstra) '94 and Paul Brooks are pleased to announce the birth of Stephanie Hannah on June 25, 2000. Big sister Kristina (2) is very happy. Jessica will return to work as a Physical Education teacher at Beacon Christian High School in February. Address: 9 Ted St., St. Catharines, ON, L2N 1E6, (905) 934-0248.

Steve DeHaan '93 and Claudia DeHaan (Bus) '94 are pleased to announce the arrival of Rebekah Alberdina on March 8, 2000. Her brother, Jason (3) is very pleased. Steve works as a Sales Representative for Westbrook Floral in Grimsby and Claudia is a part-time teacher at Smithville Covenant Christian School. Address: 2428 Tober Rd., R.R.#1, Smithville, ON, L0R 2A0, (905) 957-1637, cdehaan@sympatico.ca

Shawn Hofing '00 and Andrea Smeenk '00 were wed August 12, 2000. They are both now attending school in Grand Rapids. Shawn is at Calvin Seminary while Andrea is pursuing a degree in special education at Calvin College. Address: 3521 Burton St. SE, Apt. E, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 49546-4387, shofing9@calvin.edu

Sarah James (VanderMolen) '97 and Stephen James were married on September 19, 1999 in Somerset, Bermuda. They reside in Ridgeway. Sarah continues to work at Turning Point Girls Home and was recently promoted to the position of resident supervisor.

Michael Koke '90 and Sandra Koke (Brickell) were blessed with the birth of their first child, William Robert, on June 7, 2000. They will be moving to Thunder Bay, D.V., in November 2000, from Ottawa to practise Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine.

Mike Miedema '86 and Bonita Miedema (Vandenburch) give praise to God for the birth of their precious son, Joshua Nathanael Sidney on June 14, 2000. Mike has been the minister at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Bowmanville, Ontario for the past 4 years. Bonita is a nurse practitioner. Address: 2811 Hwy #2 E., Bowmanville, ON, L1C 3K5, (905) 697-1359, mike.miedema@sympatico.ca

Aaron Schat '96 and Kim Schat (Mantel) '96 were blessed with their first child, a baby girl named Kyra Erin, on August 16, 2000. Kim is currently enjoying a maternity leave from her job as Administrative Clerk at Christian Horizons' Kitchener office. Aaron recently completed his M.A. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at the University of Guelph, and is pursuing doctoral studies. Address: 55 Regent St., Guelph, ON, N1E 4W5, (519) 837-3961, aschat@ouoguelph.ca

Greg VanRooyen '87 and Stephanie VanRooyen (Proper) '92 are thankful to God for the safe arrival of Luke John on May 5, 2000! Greg continues to work as a paramedic, and Stephanie returns to her job as part-time Music Director of First CRC, Barrie, in September. Janelle (4) and Katelyn (2) are excited to have a little brother! Address: 39 Ferguson Dr., Barrie, ON, L4N 7B5, (705) 725-0284.

Christina Vugteveen (Hogeterp) '96 married Terence Vugteveen on May 13, 2000. Christina works as a community program director for the Surrey Family YMCA.

Melissa Witteveen-Nash '93 and Mike Nash are pleased to finally announce Cullen Isaac (3) and Cara Linda (2). Melissa received her Masters in Music at the University of Illinois in 1995, and now gets to stay home with son and daughter. She also takes care of the 'books' for Mike's new crane business: Nash Crane Service, Inc. Melissa also teaches piano lessons during the school year. Address: 1910 Country Squire, Urbana, IL, USA, 61802, (217) 365-9974, nashof4@aol.com

News of Interest

Name: _____

Grad year: _____

Name (spouse, maiden): _____

Grad year: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

News: _____

presence also allowed a Redeemer education student, Jody Yzerman, to do a five week placement at Immanuel.

One of the joys for Dr. Rooks was having the opportunity to teach one of his daughters and have another one in the same school. The entire Rooks family enjoyed their stay. "We made a lot of friends and had a lot of fun on the island; it was also good for me professionally. I am already looking forward to another placement." |

New Achievement for Goheen

Dr. Mike Goheen, Assistant Professor of Religion and Theology, successfully defended his Ph. D. dissertation at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, this summer. Goheen's work, entitled "As the Father Has Sent Me, I am Sending You:



J.E. Lesslie Newbigin's Missionary Ecclesiology", incorporates many of Goheen's academic interests—the role of worldview and culture on mission, and how they have been tied together in the writing of British theologian Lesslie Newbigin.

Dr. Goheen is a much sought-after presenter and he has been invited to speak on the issues of worldview and culture at conferences around the world. The difference now he says, is that with his new designation, he won't have to correct those who refer to him as "Doctor". Despite his quip, earning a Ph.D. requires years of research and writing and all of us at Redeemer University College congratulate Dr. Goheen on his accomplishment. |

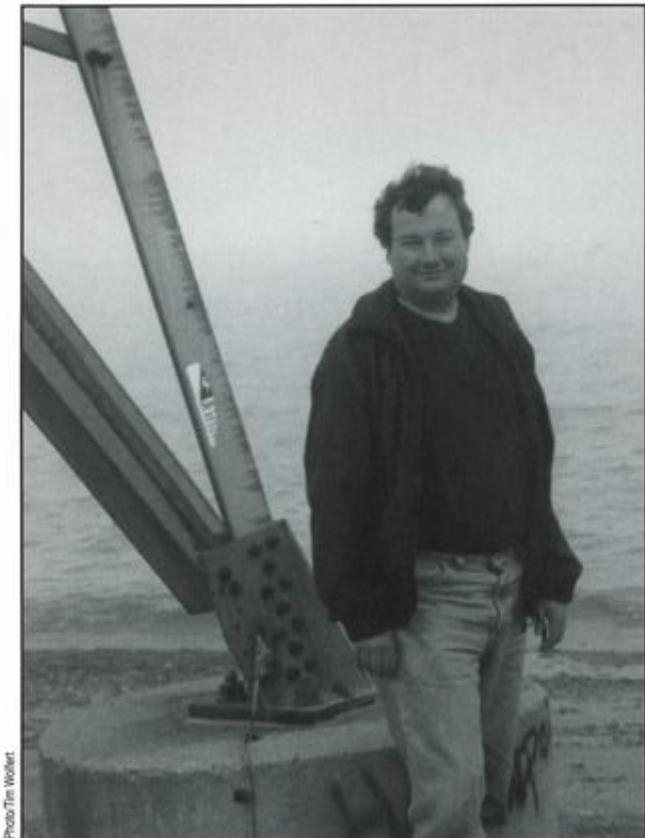


Photo Tim Wolkert

Mark Mantel at the beach in October 2000

**Walking along the wall
of ice formed along
the lake,
inhaling some fresh
Hamilton air
while waiting for my
next Algebra class in
the dungeon,
I wondered where this
Redeemer College
would be by
the turn of the
millennium
(would that
be 2000 or 2001?)**

Six years seems like such a long time; it's been that long since I started working on the Alumni Board. But at least that's a lot easier to admit to than the number of years since I started Redeemer. Having been in touch with Redeemer for that long has allowed for an interesting perspective on how things have changed since its early days (at least that's what the editor told me when he asked me to write this piece). But it did give me a chance to reminisce about the early days. Ah yes, those first Beach Boulevard years. At times, I remember it like it was yesterday....

Walking along the wall of ice formed along the lake, inhaling some fresh Hamilton air while waiting for my next Algebra class in the dungeon, I wondered where this Redeemer College would be by the turn of the millennium (would that be 2000 or 2001?) Maybe we'd actually have over 300 students and they'd have to take three whole group shots to fit everyone in. Maybe we'd have a brand new bus to take us to all those hockey games, since by then we'd be sure to be the hockey champs of the OCAA; after all, we had the best fans, and what could be a better mascot than Rex the Royal Raccoon! (A raccoon?) I'll bet our library will be twice as big imagine having 20 people being able to study in the library at the same time instead of just 10! And just think if they had a place big enough for both the pool table and the foosball table, and maybe even a TV" that place would be packed, with everyone congregating there between classes. And the

Crown staff would finally have their own large office in which to work instead of a closet off the student lounge. But I know some things will never change: Dr. Plantinga and the rest of the profs will still have their beards, the jocks will always outnumber the artsies, Hogie will still be riding his bike shouting "out of de way," and it will always be "sho good to see you."

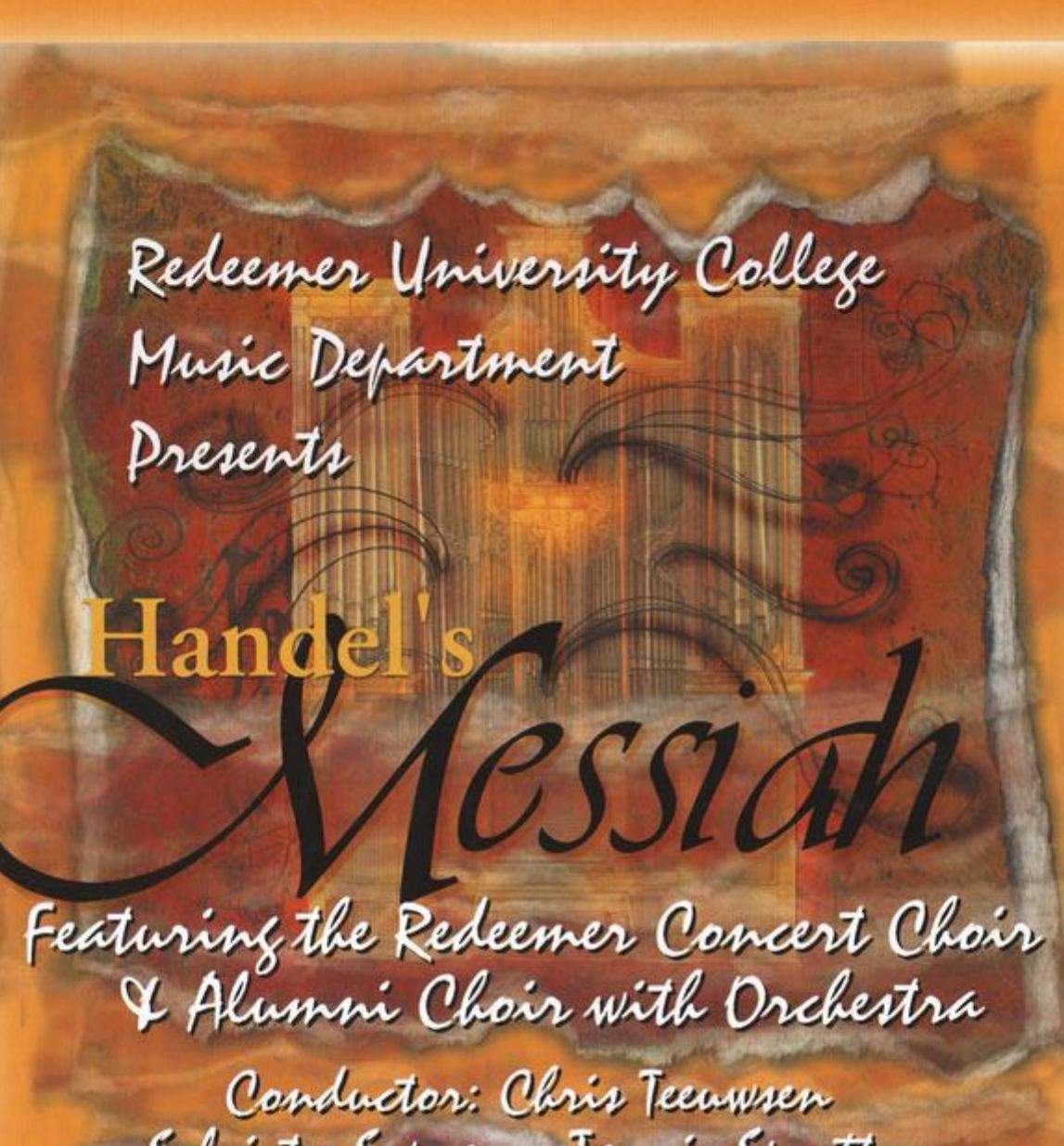
Well, maybe not all of our future predictions were entirely true, but as I've had more time to watch the Lord work, I know that's a good thing. I know we all prayed for His blessings, but I will admit that I never envisioned back then everything that Redeemer has become now. To be accepted as a university (even retroactively!), to be on the way towards 1000 students, to be building new residences and contemplating new academic buildings, to be witness to the spiritual growth among the increasingly diversified student population on campus (witness the Church in the Box which has more than slightly outgrown the Box), all while many of the same profs and many more new ones continue to inspire tomorrow's leaders in the Christian community and beyond all this is more growth in less time than many of the pioneer students probably expected.

And yet I wouldn't trade those memories of the early days for anything. It was a time when everyone knew everyone, when we were all taking a chance on an idea that had no real guarantees attached, yet we all knew it was something we'd never regret. Yes, there were tough times, but we've made it through them and learned from them as well. And now it's on to the future, when the second-generation Redeemer students begin making their Redeemer memories in the (gulp!) not-too-distant future. What stories will you be telling them of those early days? (or should I say admitting to?)

Looking Back at Looking Forward:

A View From the Beach

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